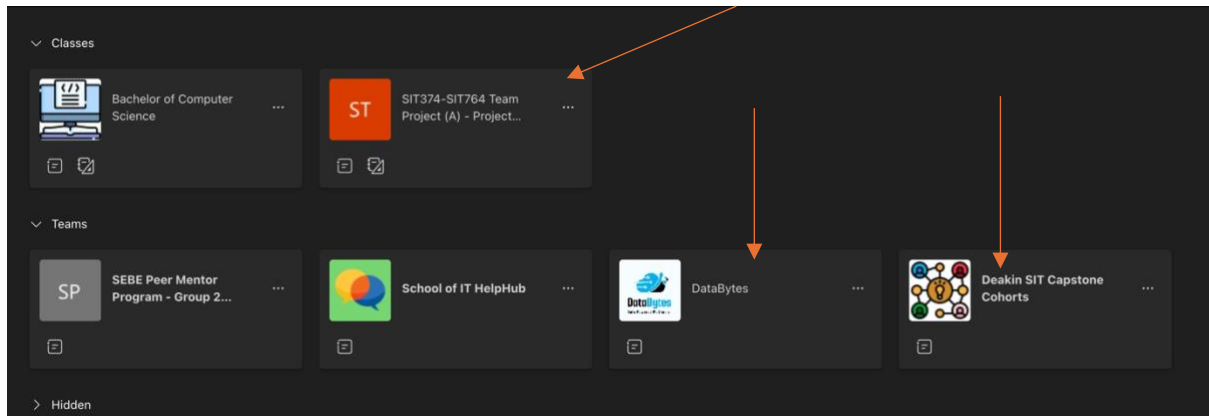Hi everybody! Welcome to the DiscountMate project inside of the DataBytes company. If you've made it this far you should have selected a company and project that you want to work for the duration of this course.

If you haven't reached this point, no stress! Get in contact with a member of staff and they will be able to help you out. You can also check on your teams' channels for any extra information.

The marked channels are where you will find any and all the information you will need to succeed in this unit.

The first couple weeks of this unit can be confusing as a junior student because this unit is probably different to every other unit you have completed to this point. Patience is key as information will come out and this time is spent organising teams so technical contributions can begin in earnest.

There will be a meetings in the unit team, this is available for everyone to attend but is not a traditional lecture. You are expected to come into this unit having a degree of prior knowledge and skills that will be put into practice. There will also be workshops that cover important areas such as using Github, where all documentation and completed work is uploaded. Finally, once you are in a company/project there will be meetings amongst team members.

The team meetings don't take a long time and are used to update the team on what has been done, identify future actions and is a place for any questions or issues to be raised.

If you're not already familiar with OnTrack it is where you submit work and updates to your mentor to progress in the unit and create your final portfolio which determines your grade.
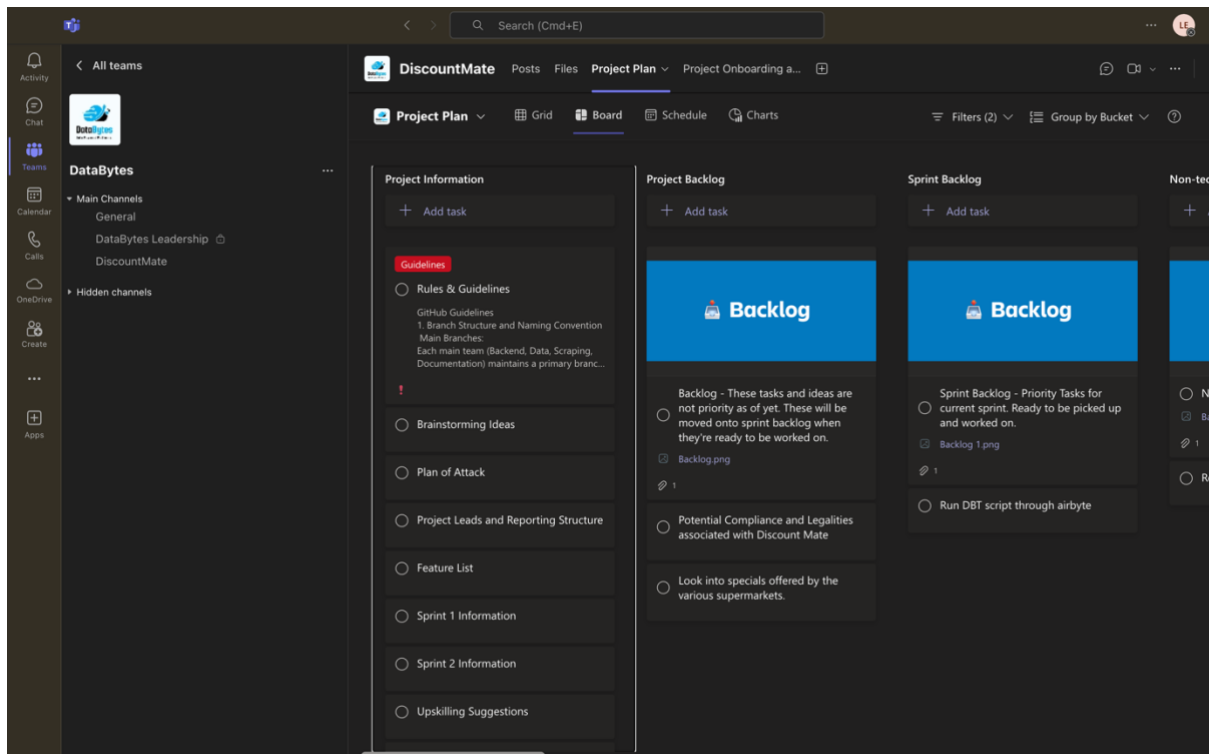
Your page will look something like this as you progress through the unit.

If you're looking for things to do before we get into the heart of this unit some of the best things you can do are familiarising yourself with the work being done and upskilling yourself.

As mentioned all of the past work is available on the Github repository. You are welcome to browse through the past work, you may find something that interests you or may even come up with ideas for extensions of work that can be done. Speaking of Github, if you're not familiar with it that's no worries either you can follow the link to a workshop in the Capstone Cohort team and it will provide an overview of how to use it in this unit. Github use.

Another tool that we use is the Microsoft Teams Project Planner. This is where the backlog of projects and work in progress is kept track of. We use this to update each other on our progress so have a look to understand how it works.

It can be found in your selected project's sub-channel

Upskilling is important in this unit, there may be mini-projects that you are trying to work on but don't completely know what you're doing. There is mountains of online resources that are available. LinkedIn Learning has many high-quality ones. Upskilling is also a part of this unit, counting as hours completed and providing an excellent opportunity to increase the quality of your work.

This post highlights some of the useful course available on LinkedIn Learning.

Finally, whatever you do, don't be afraid to ask questions. That can be to faculty members, your mentor, team members or leaders, or just post it to the group chat. It is so much better to ask a question, so you don't fall behind and you never know who else is wondering the same thing. The senior students know exactly how you feel. They likely completed what you are currently doing in the previous trimester.

All the best and we look forward to working with you.